

What is this program?

The Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (DMME), Division of Mineral Mining (DMM) in conjunction with the Virginia Transportation Construction Alliance (VTCA) annually recognize mining operations for exemplary efforts in reclamation on mine sites.

Who is eligible?

Any permitted mineral mine in Virginia that has successfully completed a reclamation project may participate. Sites must be nominated in order to be considered. Your local mine inspector will assist. A mine site's regulatory history will be a factor in the nomination process.

Are there different categories?

Yes. There are two categories, one for quarries and one for non-quarry operations. Winners are chosen from each category. Depending on the quality and number of nominations, awards may be given for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place or Honorable Mention. and then an overall winner is chosen. Certificates of recognition are given to all participants.



How are winners determined?

The Orphaned Land Advisory Committee reviews the nominations with consideration given to several factors. Among these factors are; the degree of difficulty of the reclamation, innovative land use planning, innovative ground covers/revegetation, and the stability of the site on a short and long term basis.



When are the nominations submitted and when should I start planning for it?

The deadline for submitting nominations is May 15th of each year. However, the planning and work toward a nomination should start well in advance. The material/information needed for a nomination package should be assembled at least two months in advance as much as possible.

What materials/information do I need to have and who puts it all together into a nomination package?

Go through your records of the project and glean key information such as; types and amounts of soil amendments, types and amounts seed or other vegetation used, special techniques or technology employed, specific difficulties and how they were dealt with. The cost involved with the entire project as well as key elements is an important component too. Pictures are a very important part of any nomination. Before, during and after completion take pictures to document your work. These will tell your story better than anything else. Involve your inspector from the very beginning. He can guide you in putting together the information and he will be the one that creates the submittal package based on what you provide.



What do I get out of this?

In addition to a nice plaque and a letter to hang in your office, you gain positive publicity for your mine site, company, and the industry as a whole.

Also, our state overall winners are entered in national reclamation award competitions sponsored by the Interstate Mining Compact Commission (IMCC) and the National Association of State Land Reclamationists (NASLR).

Virginia nominees have won these national awards on a frequent basis in recent years.



Want more information?

Contact us at:

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Mineral Mining Reclamation Awards Program

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